

**Virginia Department of Health
Pandemic Influenza Weekly Report #19
August 7, 2006**

WORLDWIDE UPDATE:

- The World Health Organization did not post any updates on H5N1 influenza this week. The worldwide human case count stands at 232 cases and 134 deaths.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Central Office

- VDH received CDC Grant Guidance for Phase II, Pandemic Flu and conducted a video teleconference with all Local Health Districts to provide Guidance in preparing their budget inputs.
- Peninsula District Director and planner received an invitation from the State VOAD Executive Committee to present at the State VOAD meeting, September 29 at the State EOC. The request is for a shortened version of the District's pandemic influenza tabletop exercise for local governments and organizations, which stresses the local impact and local decisions associated with preparing for and getting through an epidemic wave of pandemic influenza in the community.
- Upcoming Regional and Local PanFlu Summits are scheduled as follows:

Loudoun	August 10
Near SW Region	August 22
Hampton Roads	August 22
Eastern Shore	August 8
- Health Districts and EP&R Regions continue community outreach and coordinated PanFlu planning (refer to attached VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report).

VDH Pandemic Flu Activities Progress Report

VDH ACTIVITIES – Regional Reports

- **Southwest region**

- SW Regional Planner, accompanied by the newly hired Health Educator and the Epidemiologist from the Roanoke City Health District made a Pandemic Influenza presentation to 13 members of the Virginia Home Care Association, meeting in Roanoke. The presentation keyed in on the Virginia planning and response efforts as they relate to the National Response Plan and local Health District plans.
- SW Regional Planner made a presentation to 14 members of the Far SW Virginia Home Health Care Association, meeting in Abingdon, regarding the status of the planning and response efforts in Virginia as compared to the national plan and local health department plans.

VDH ACTIVITIES – Health District Report

- **Alexandria**

- Brochures on Pandemic Flu now completed and to printer.
- Posters created and to printer.
- Power Point presentation for public completed.
- Fatality Management Plan first draft completed.
- Quarantine and Isolation legal processes plan completed and ready for test in October.
- Medical Surge plan completed with Community Care Stations and Alternative Care Sites described.
- Approximately 10 presentations to community groups have been given, including two to small business organizations.
- First draft of Public Schools Plan completed.
- First draft of presentation for City Council completed.

- **Arlington**

- Arlington County Manager and Public Health Director co-wrote an op-ed piece for the Washington Times titled "Coping With A Flu Pandemic," which ran on Friday, July 21, 2006. The focus of the op-ed piece was what businesses and nonprofit organizations (large and small) need to prepare themselves for a pandemic.

- **Central Shenandoah**

- Planner facilitated Pandemic Flu Summit part 2 in Lexington, VA for Rockbridge County. Requested County organizations to partner with us to assist in dispensing: e.g. Nursing Homes and Universities to dispense to their staff, staff families and clients. Also asked them to promote personal preparedness to their staff and to consider creating an all hazards Task Force to be led by Rockbridge County and Cities of Buena Vista and Lexington.
- Planner and Epi attended pandemic flu drill planning meeting with Rockingham County Emergency Manager and Region 3 VDEM Representative for October Dispensing Site exercise.
- Planner attended pandemic flu planning meeting with Augusta Medical Center.
- Planner met with Rockbridge County Emergency Manager to discuss creation of a Task Force to discuss Pandemic Flu planning needs as well as other emergency issues facing the county.

- **Chesterfield**

- Pandemic Flu Health Educators presented on PanFlu at 2 local medical practices.
- 20 more PanFlu presentations have been scheduled for the next two months.

- PanFlu work group met to discuss strategies for PanFlu 2 funding and its work plan.
- **Cumberland Plateau**
 - Planner distributed Pandemic Influenza video, literature, and district contact information to the Virginia Department of Corrections facilities within the District and invited the facilities to the upcoming local pandemic influenza meetings.
 - Director and Planner attended the EP&R Central Office PolyCom to discuss Phase II Pandemic Influenza funding and budgetary requirements.
 - Director and Epidemiologist presented the pandemic flu video at the Tazewell County Board of Supervisors' meeting, and answered questions concerning a possible pandemic influenza.
 - Planner provided assistance from the Mountain Empire Regional Pandemic Influenza Summit requests for additional information, next meeting dates, and opportunities to learn more about district pandemic influenza plans.
 - Planner facilitated planning efforts for local county pandemic influenza meetings in Buchanan, Dickenson, Russell, and Tazewell counties.
- **Eastern Shore**
 - Several community presentations given by health educator on pandemic influenza.
 - Preparing for Eastern Shore pandemic influenza summit to be held on August 8th.
 - Working with schools on getting our educational flyers on pandemic influenza in the schools for open house.
 - Advertisements being placed in both local papers with pandemic influenza educational information.
 - Participated in pandemic influenza internal exercise at Shore Memorial Hospital.
 - Health educator attended two health fairs at Perdue and Tysons chicken processing facilities providing accurate information on pandemic influenza and avian influenza
 - Discussing options for phase II funding.
- **Hampton**
 - Director continues meeting with local doctors.
 - Planner met with both the Hampton Schools Pandemic Flu Committee and City of Hampton Safety Committee.
- **Henrico**
 - Planner participated in Virginia Asian Chamber of Commerce (VACC) meeting on Health and Safety Issues for Asian Americans in the Richmond Metro Area.
 - Director and Planner conducted a meeting with County partners to plan for upcoming Mass Vaccination Exercise in November.
 - Planner presented Pandemic Flu information at Brighton Gardens Assisted Living Facility.
 - Planner and Epidemiologist worked on the District Epidemiology Response Team Plan.
 - Budget ideas for Phase II Pandemic Flu Funding Grant were discussed at Management Meeting.
 - Director assisted a local business with initiation of a pandemic flu plan.
- **Lord Fairfax (Winchester Area)**
 - NW Region Hygienist presented a one-hour training on "Respiratory Protection" at the Wayside Inn in Middletown (Frederick Co.). He discussed how to set up a respiratory protection program, difference between "surgical" type masks and respirators (such as N-95). Attending were district emergency response, infection control, regional correctional facility, and medical personnel. Evaluations positive!
- **Loudoun**

- Met with the County PIO to draft a press release which was sent to the media regarding the upcoming County PanFlu Summit.
- Scheduled a PanFlu talk for the Leadership Loudoun Program breakfast.
- Scheduled training resources for a Customer Service Forum scheduled for Oct.
- Met with school health personnel to discuss infection control and prevention methods for their pandemic flu plan.
- Continued discussions with Metropolitan Washington Airports Authority, Dulles Airport Fire/Rescue and Police on pandemic flu issues and quarantine order and enforcement issues.
- Participated in VDH Department of Epidemiology telecall on upcoming influenza surveillance.
- Completed development of tabletop exercise for LCHD leaders to improve comprehension of POD leadership roles – to be held 3 times in August.
- Met with corporate representatives from Wegman's Food Markets, Inc. to discuss new food sterilization processes and to initialize potential collaboration for PanFlu needs (pharmacy, food distribution, employee education, distribution of flyers to advertise the PanFlu Summit and the October Exercise, etc).
- County COOP Plan updated for each department to include: defined essential functions that need to be maintained, department contacts, alternate department contact data, vendors dependent upon for each essential function, other departments dependent upon for each essential function, and vendor contact data.
- Developed half page advertisement and a press release on the County Public PanFlu Summit to Purcellville Gazette – Blue Ridge Leader to cover residents in the western part of Loudoun County.
- Continued hand distribution of County Pandemic PanFlu Summit flyers to county health clubs, government buildings, fraternal organizations, bowling alleys, libraries, grocery stores, and shopping and outlet malls.
- Continued to take online, phone, and fax registrations for the August 10 County Pandemic PanFlu Summit (125 individuals registered as of 8/3/06).
- Continued to answer numerous public inquiries emailed to flu@loudoun.gov about pandemic and avian flu, plans, and education.
- Initiated advertising for PanFlu and the health department website on Town of Leesburg welcome signs located on two major highway routes leading into Leesburg.
- Partnered with the Loudoun County Department of Economic Development to initiate advertising in two major Loudoun County newspapers - the Loudoun Times-Mirror and the Loudoun Easterner regarding the PanFlu summit.
- PanFlu message and MRC flyers were distributed to 80,000 Loudoun homes via ValPak advertising mailings.
- Working with the county Public Information Officer, initiated PanFlu summit advertising on the Loudoun County Government channel on the local cable TV network.
- Distributed PanFlu summit flyers to local libraries, health food stores and fitness clubs, and Town government office buildings.
- Conducted monthly meeting of the Loudoun Pandemic Flu Preparedness Task Force, featuring presentations on pandemic flu preparedness planning progress by Loudoun County Public Schools, and the Town of Leesburg.
- Confirmed CDC Quarantine Station Officer at Dulles Airport as a speaker at the PanFlu Summit.

- Have utilized 3 MRC volunteers for each PanFlu seminar to assist in registration and recruiting of patients and more volunteers for the October PanFlu exercise.
- Conducted a second 2.5 hour PanFlu seminar for Business Personnel with 15 participants representing telecommunications, IT, faith-based parish nurses, universities, banks, aerospace firms, EMS organizations and small businesses. American Red Cross Loudoun Chapter participated by distributing continuity of operations planning educational materials.
- Conducted a 2 hour PanFlu seminar for Loudoun County Public School administrators with 43 participants representing 76 public schools. Introduced school task force representatives and discussed improved hand hygiene methods, COOP planning and HR issues, transportation issues, issues of prolonged school closings, potential uses of school facilities and staff for response activities, surface disinfectants for classrooms and busses, and new hand-washing and cough etiquette training from K-12 grades. Scheduled three more sessions for principles and School Board.
- Conducted a second 2.5 hour Pandemic Flu Seminar for First Responders in Ashburn, VA, with 15 attendees representing: law enforcement, Virginia Defense Force, EMS (career and volunteer), Fire, CERT volunteers, MRC volunteers, and Red Cross.
- Conducted a 2.5 hour Pandemic Flu Seminar for Government Personnel in Leesburg, VA, with 36 attendees representing government agencies of Loudoun County and the Towns of Leesburg, Purcellville, and Lovettsville, VA.
- Held the first of two Pandemic Flu Seminars for Business Personnel in Leesburg, VA, on July 27, with 32 attendees representing various large and small Loudoun County businesses. The Department of Economic Development Director welcomed the group. A Strayer University professor and four of his Master's level curriculum development course students attended the session to assist them in developing a training curriculum on pandemic flu preparedness and response for the Government of Liberia to use in teaching local health officials.
- Scheduled PanFlu presentation for LCHD Community Health Services.
- Trained a Fire/Rescue liaison to provide PanFlu training on all shifts to Ashburn Volunteer Fire/Rescue Station.
- Completed draft budget for Phase II PanFlu grant.
- **Loudoun Health District Sponsored Exercise ("Code Flu 06"):**
 - Coordinated the scheduling of a POD tabletop exercise to be held August 18th with Prince William Health District.
 - Obtained a recorder for the staging site and POD hotwashes at the exercise on October 21st.
- **Commonwealth/NCR SNS-PanFlu Exercise ("Fowl Play"):**
 - Scheduled a meeting with pertinent law enforcement personnel (Loudoun County Sheriff's Office Special Operations) and the Loudoun County Emergency Management Coordinator to continue developing the plan for the Loudoun SNS pick up at the NoVA warehouse.
- **Mount Rogers**
 - Epidemiologist met with school nurses in Grayson and Carroll Counties to discuss PanFlu.
 - Epidemiologist met with district nursing staff for PanFlu training.
 - Epidemiologist and planner met with members of the Wythe County School Board for PanFlu training and plan modification

- Mount Rogers Epi nurses and supervisors participated in the SW Regional PanFlu drill via polycom. There were 23 staff members in attendance
- Epidemiologist met with staff of SW Dept of Corrections staff for PanFlu training.
- Planner met with all Deans at Emory and Henry College for a PanFlu planning meeting.
- Multiple district staff participated in the Far SW pandemic influenza summit.
- Planner held planning meeting with two banks in Smyth County to assist with the planning efforts.
- Planner did training for first responders in Smyth County regarding planning for PanFlu.
- **Peninsula**
 - Director and planner met with two assistant city managers and emergency management coordinator for the City of Newport News to discuss schedule for finalizing pandemic influenza preparedness annex to the City's Emergency Operations Plan and for presenting to City Council.
 - Planner met with senior managers of the catalog and distribution operation for the Newport News and Spiegel brands in Newport News to discuss organizational planning and preparedness for pandemic influenza.
 - Planner met with representatives of Newport News Fire Department to discuss departmental preparedness for pandemic influenza.
 - Director and planner received an invitation from the State VOAD Executive Committee to present at the State VOAD meeting, September 29 at the State EOC. The request is for a shortened version of the District's pandemic influenza tabletop exercise for local governments and organizations, which stresses the local impact and local decisions associated with preparing for and getting through an epidemic wave of pandemic influenza in the community.
- **Pittsylvania-Danville**
 - Pandemic Influenza Outreach Worker hired to focus on educating the community.
 - Media Training in Preparation for Pandemic Influenza Press Releases: District Epidemiologist, Emergency Planner, Environmental Specialist, and Nurse Manager attended VDH Public Information Officer training at the Danville Health Department. The course covered television, radio, and newspaper interviews. These interviewing skills will be important during an emergency or pandemic as the Health Department works to get information to the public.
 - Participated in Southwest Region Table Top Drill: Pandemic Flu Outreach Worker, Planner, District Epidemiologist and Director participated. Scenario was Pandemic Influenza.
 - Local Emergency Planning Committee: District Epidemiologist and Emergency Planner presented Pandemic Influenza preparedness information to the regional members;
 - Epidemiologist attended an Introduction to ArcGIS training class at Virginia Tech. The ability to map illnesses and other demographic information will provide a visual representation of disease trends and movement, which may prove useful during a pandemic
 - Pittsylvania County CERT: Pandemic Influenza Presentation to approximately 40 members.
 - Business Subcommittee (Of the District Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee) Meeting: During the third meeting of the subcommittee, convened by several members of the subcommittee and assisted by the Nurse Manager of the Health

- Department, discussion topics included: distributing Pandemic Flu Preparedness Fact Sheets to business employees, providing anti-bacterial hand gel carabiners to employees, and infection control practices in the work place.
- Medical Subcommittee (Of the District Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee) Meeting: During the first meeting of the subcommittee, convened by the CEO of Piedmont Access to Health Services (PATHS) and assisted by the District Epidemiologist and PanFlu Outreach Worker, problems facing the medical community in planning for a pandemic were discussed. The subcommittee plans to meet again in August to discuss solutions;
 - Virginia Department of Health Pandemic Flu DVDs were delivered to Corning Inc., DOVES, Centra Health – Gretna and Chatham Middle School.
 - Pittsylvania-Danville Pandemic Influenza Planning Committee Meeting: This was the third meeting where all the subcommittees were present to discuss Pandemic Flu preparedness issues. A Public Information Committee was formed to work on developing advertisements for the newspaper and PSAs for television and radio stations.
 - **Roanoke - Allegheny County**
 - Hired Health Educator to work in PanFlu education and community outreach.
 - Did PanFlu presentation to health nursing students from Radford University - Roanoke Campus.
 - Participated in PanFlu presentation to Virginia Association for Home Care.
 - Completed PanFlu phase II budget for both districts.
 - Assembling lists for community groups in need of PanFlu education.
 - Developing presentations specific to those groups.
 - **Three Rivers**
 - District held Pandemic Flu Summit at Christchurch School in Saluda, VA on 1 August from 9:00 AM to 3:00 pm. Summit was kicked off by Delegate Harvey Morgan and principle speakers included, District Director; Gordon Barwell, VDEM; VDH Hospital Coordinator, Juanita Cawley, West Point School System; and Brian Clemmons, Middle Peninsula/ Northern Neck CSB. Approximately 100 attended the summit, including County Administrators, School Superintendents, and representatives from hospitals, long term care facilities, emergency services, social services, and volunteer organizations. Theme of the Summit was “Moving from Awareness to Preparedness.” Topics included Community Preparedness, School Preparedness, Impact on the Healthcare System, Impact on Mental Health, Infection and Control, Isolation and Quarantine, Expanding the Healthcare System, Volunteers and Volunteer Organizations, Family and Individual Preparedness, and Developing a Pandemic Flu Plan.
 - **Virginia Beach**
 - Director and Planner presented information on Pandemic Influenza Planning to the city's Department Leadership Team.
 - Director presented Pandemic Influenza information to the Family and Youth Opportunities Strategic Issues Team.
 - City-wide Pandemic Planning Committee met this past week. It was determined that we will break up into working groups; City Plan and SOP, Health and Surveillance, Communications and Public Education, Isolation and Quarantine, Human Services, Legal Issues, and Animal Issues.

- Planning a Pandemic Influenza Healthcare Summit for August 9 at the Virginia Beach Convention Center. Over 1600 invites went out to the medical community. We are expecting a large turn-out.
- Director provided Presentations on Pandemic Influenza to Virginia Beach Health Services Advisory Board Meeting and VBDPH General Staff Meeting.
- The Health Director and Regional Medical Consultant will be providing a presentation to Sentara Bayside Hospital Breakfast CME Program.